

WO-260
Old Mason's Opera House
Snow Hill
private

c. 1900

When first erected the old Mason's opera house was one of the most distinctive and popular buildings that stood in the heart of Snow Hill. The Washington Street site was not only the location for viewing the current films of the day, but the brick structure was initially three stories high with a prominent parapet wall pierced by tripartite and paired window sash. Capping the wall was a bold metal cornice. Within the recent past, however, the third story has been removed, the commercial front has been reworked, and the interior has lost its significant theater fittings.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: QL - MASON'S OPERA HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: NO-260

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE, ECONOMIC

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

1870-1930 INDUSTRIAL / URBAN DOMINANCE

4) Resource Type(s):

1. STANDING STRUCTURE

a. FORMER OPERA HOUSE AND
MOVIE THEATER

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. W0-260

Magi No. 240605711

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic OLD MASON'S OPERA HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number North Washington Street ___ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. W0-260

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The old Mason's opera house stands on the west side of North Washington Street in the center of the business district of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay brick structure faces southeast and is covered by a flat roof hidden behind a parapet wall.

Evidently built around the turn of the twentieth century, the two-story brick building has been extensively reworked. The first floor commercial front has been completely replaced, and the third floor has been removed as well. As originally erected the Washington Street building was three full stories with a bold metal cornice that topped the parapet wall. Currently the first floor retains a center pier and recessed entrances that open into unoccupied spaces. The flanking display windows are modern replacements. Lighting the second floor are nine single-pane sash windows set in three groups of three. Individual jack arches top each window. Fixed above the row of windows is a recessed panel that once held the name, "MASON'S OPERA HOUSE." The upper portion of the wall has been rebuilt as a solid brick wall. Rising from the north corner of the building is a narrow brick stack.

The sides of the building are covered with adjacent commercial structures, and the interior has been recently gutted of the former theater fixtures.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-260

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The former Mason's opera house was a distinctive building in the center of Snow Hill before recent alterations have removed most significant exterior and interior features. A documentary photograph of the building reveals that the structure was originally three stories high with tripartite and paired windows lighting the third floor. The high parapet wall was capped by a bold metal cornice. Within the past few decades the third floor has been removed and the first floor commercial front has been reworked with bland modern materials. The interior has been gutted of its period features as well.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-260

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Worcester County date 7/20/88

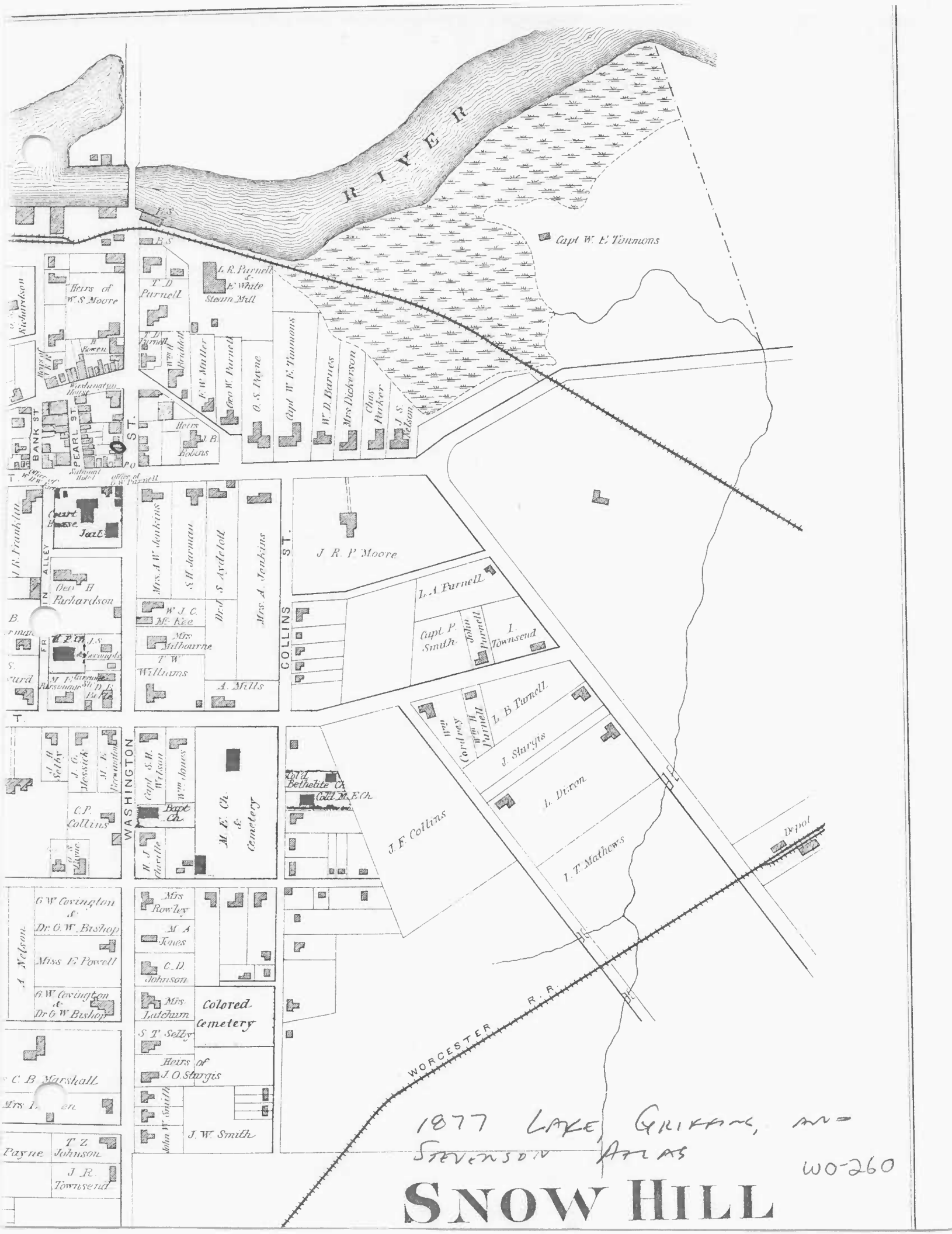
street & number Worcester County Courthouse telephone 301-632-1194

city or town Snow Hill state MD 21863

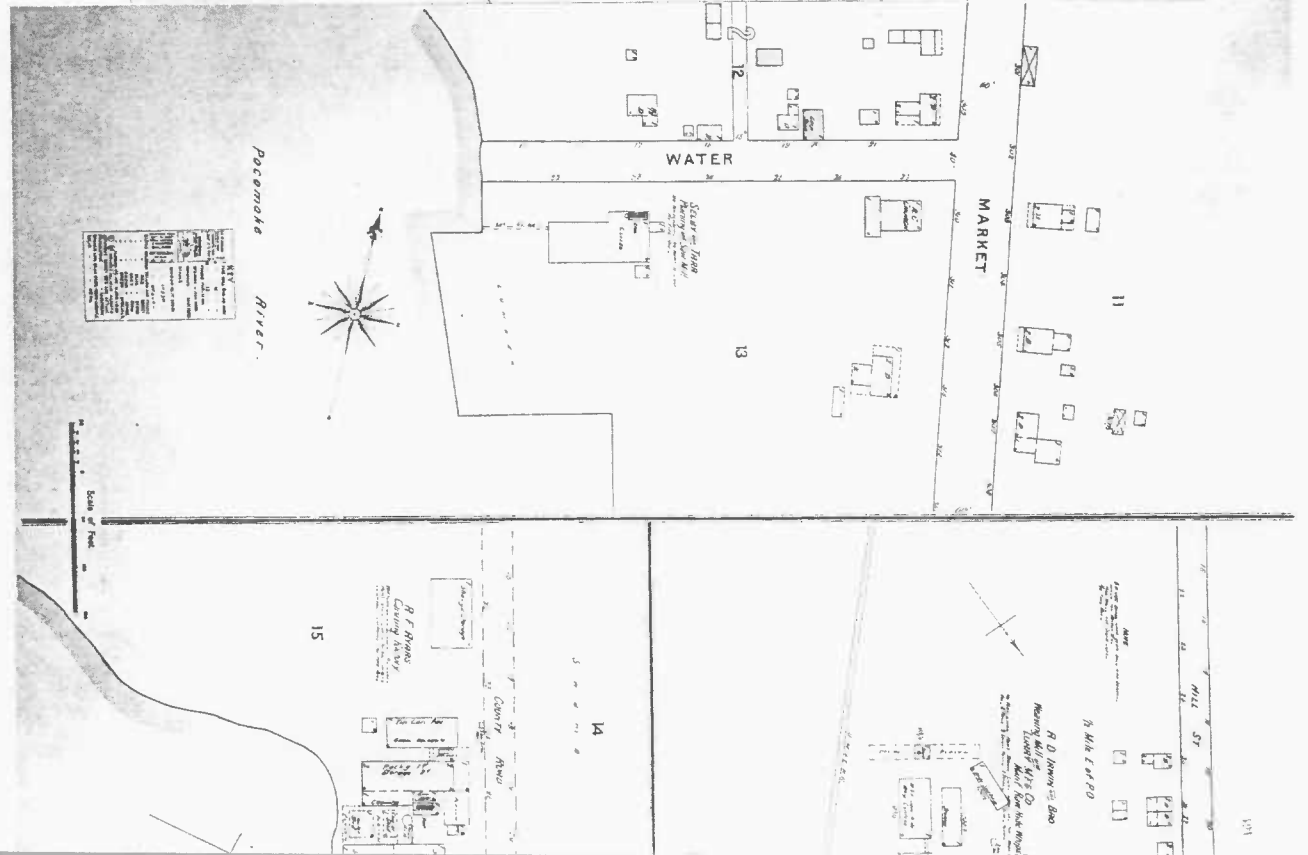
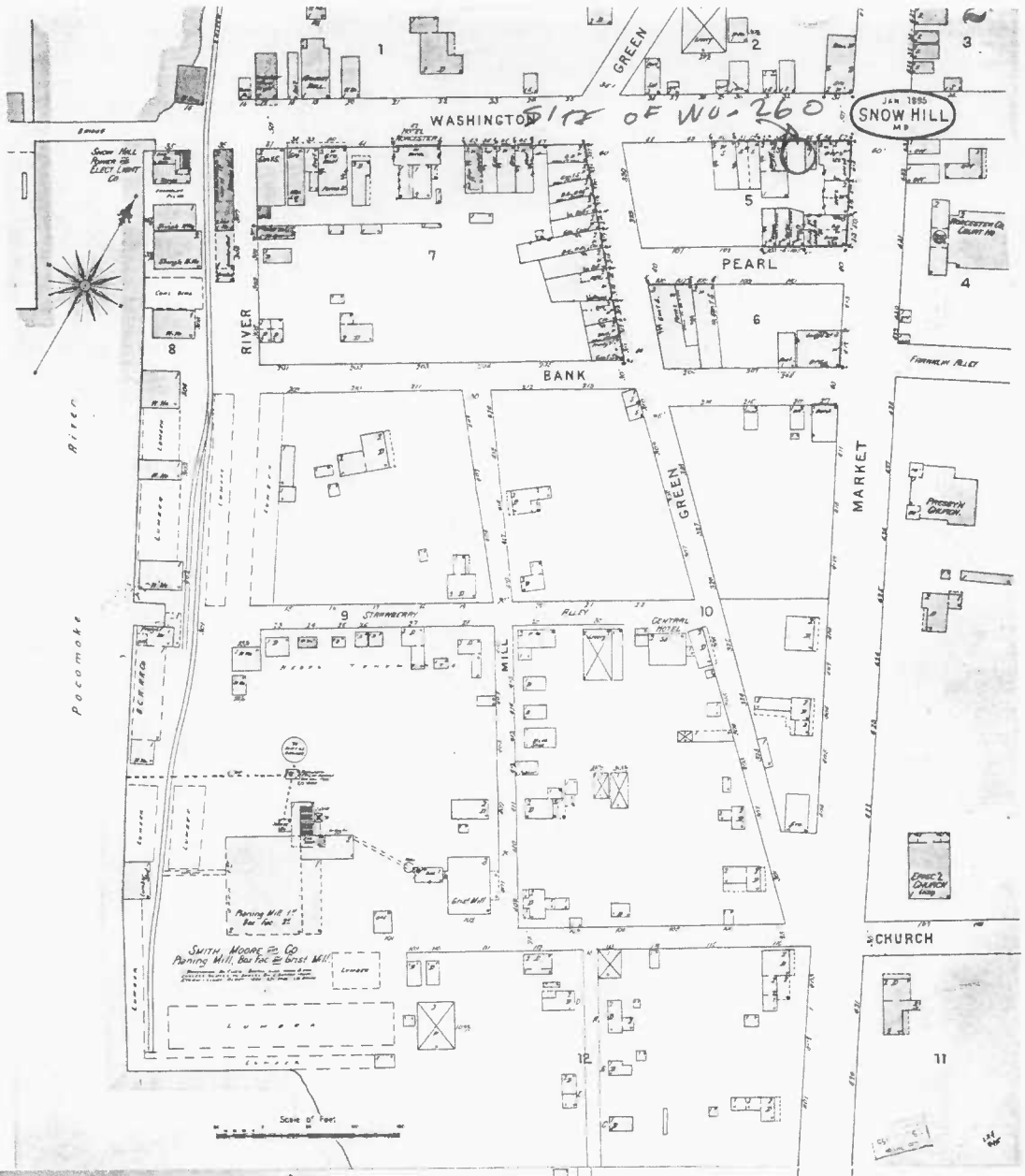
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

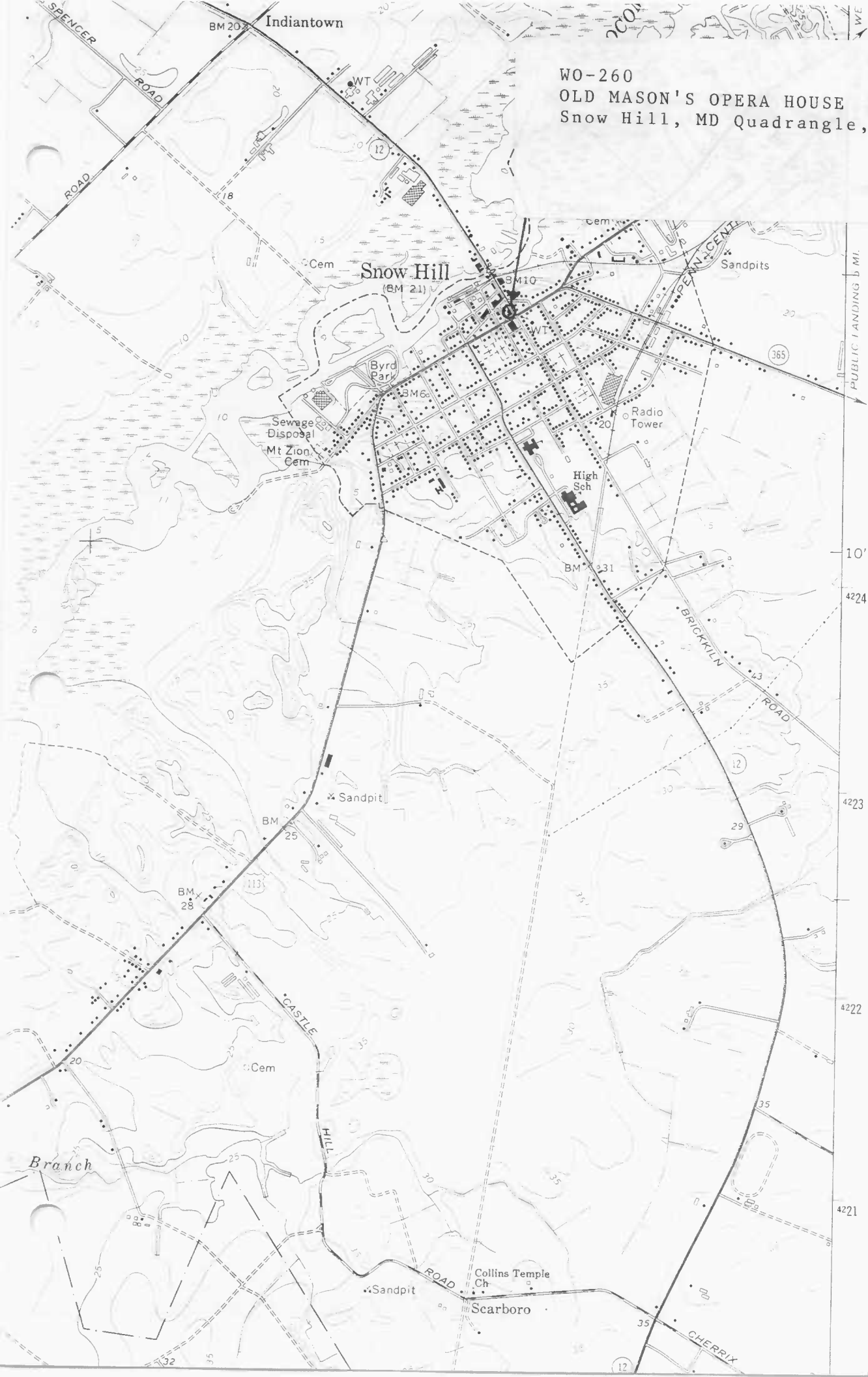


1895 SANBORN
SURFACE
MAP



WO-260

WO-260
OLD MASON'S OPERA HOUSE
Snow Hill, MD Quadrangle, 1966



PUBLIC LANDING 1 MI.

10'

4224

4223

4222

4221